

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

1. (Original) A method of preparing a cartilage, comprising adhering cell masses onto the surface of a carrier shaped into a desired form and culturing the cell masses under conditions which induce differentiation of the cell masses into a cartilage tissue.
2. (Original) A method of preparing an artificial joint, comprising adhering cell masses onto the surface of a carrier shaped into a form of a desired joint and culturing the cell masses under conditions which induce differentiation of the cell masses into a cartilage tissue.
3. **(Currently Amended)** The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the joint surface is formed with the cells, matrices produced by the cells or a combination thereof.
4. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the carrier has micropores.
5. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the cells are mesenchymal stem cells or chondrocytes.
6. (Original) The method according to claim 1 or 2, wherein the culture is performed *ex vivo* and in the presence of a growth factor(s).
7. **(New)** The method according to claim 1, wherein said cell masses comprise mesenchymal stem cells or chondrocytes and said carrier comprises calcium triphosphate having micropores with a diameter of 10-500 microns.
8. **(New)** The method according to claim 2, wherein said cell masses comprise mesenchymal stem cells or chondrocytes and said carrier comprises calcium triphosphate having micropores with a diameter of 10-500 microns.

9. (New) The method according to claim 7, wherein said cells are human bone marrow-derived mesenchymal stem cells and said carrier has a curved surface to which said cells adhere.
10. (New) The method according to claim 9, wherein said cells are cultured in the presence of TGF-beta for a time sufficient for the cell masses to adhere onto said curved surface and to fuse to each other.
11. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein said cells are chondrocytes and said carrier has a curved surface to which said cells adhere.
12. (New) The method according to claim 11, wherein said cells are cultured in the presence of TGF-beta for a time sufficient for the cell masses to adhere onto said curved surface and to fuse to each other.